

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A sampling system, comprising:

~~a lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing an incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing;~~

a test strip ~~loaded in the~~ configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from ~~the an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has a strip shape,~~ the test strip including

a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,

a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,

a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device test strip slot, and

a sealing member projecting outwardly from the bottom surface of the test strip proximal the inlet opening and positioned to seal with the skin when the test strip is pressed against the skin to retain the body fluid at the inlet opening; and wherein the test strip with the sealing member is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the test strip includes an end edge; and

the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim ~~33~~ 48, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture;

the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and

the sealing member surrounds the aperture on the bottom surface of the test strip.

36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface; and

the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the sealing member has a hydrophobic surface.

38. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the sealing member is deformable upon pressing against the skin.

39. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

40. (Currently amended) A sampling system, comprising:

- a ~~lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing an incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing; and~~
- a test strip ~~loaded in the~~ configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from ~~the an~~ an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has strip shape, the test strip including
 - a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,
 - a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,
 - a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device test strip slot, and
 - the test strip having a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface to inhibit contact of the body fluid on the skin with the bottom surface of the test strip; and
 - wherein the test strip with the recessed surface is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:

- the test strip includes an end edge; and
- the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

42. (Withdrawn) The system of claim ~~40~~ 57, wherein:

- the test strip defines an aperture;
- the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;
- the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and
- the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

Claims 43-47 (Canceled)

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, further comprising:

the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

49. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that opens at the top surface of the test strip to permit reflectance of light for optical analysis.

50. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

51. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the sealing member is hydrophobic.

53. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

54. (New) The test strip of claim 53, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

55. (New) The test strip of claim 33, wherein:
the body has an end edge; and
the inlet opening communicates with the end edge at a location spaced from the bottom surface.

56. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein the test strip further includes first and second side edges extending from the end edge, the sealing member extending from the first side edge to the second side edge.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

58. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that opens at the top surface of the test strip.

59. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

60. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the recessed surface is hydrophobic.

62. (New) The test strip of claim 40, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

63. (New) The test strip of claim 61, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.